



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

# President's Newsletter

Number 71. July, 1996.

## A LOOK BACK...

to New Orleans, where our good times are sure to become lasting memories. No two ways about it, it was one of our best conventions (and the record shows that we've had some first-rate ones over the years). Everything was close to perfect, starting with the weather and continuing with delicious Creole cuisine around every corner and down every street, French Quarter jazz and more, tours around town and out-of-town, presentations to stimulate a scale-lover's soul, a silent auction to satisfy a collector's lust for bidding/buying, a festive reception and banquet, and camaraderie as always, that was irrepressible. The total count was 115 members, spouses and guests, including the Vissers from The Netherlands and Richard Holdaway of England, and we can say with impunity that everyone seemed to have a resoundingly good time. Much thanks go to Joe Lenorovitz, who masterminded the several metrology presentations and staged the Friday night get-together and Sunday business meeting. Other convention committee members deserving of recognition include Gloria Lipfert (and her dedicated assemblage of auction assistants), Jerry Katz, Margie Stein, and Steve Ginsberg (in absentia). And, of course, a round of applause goes to those who entertained and edified our audience--Betty Wright, John Cattle, Ruth Willard, Nate Gluck, Emil Cohn, and (again) Jerry Katz. For those who weren't able to be with us, we've enclosed a convention program that describes our good times and which you're likely to want as a souvenir.

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## AND A LOOK AHEAD.

Now that our '96 convention is "history," we've turned our attention to '97, and based on a vote of the North American directors and chapter officers, we've selected Los Angeles as the convention city for next year. The dates are Thursday, May 15, to Sunday, May 18, and our headquarters will be the Omni Los Angeles Hotel & Centre. The Omni (formerly the L.A. Hilton) has just concluded a multi-million dollar expansion and renovation program, making it the premier hotel in downtown L.A., and what we're especially pleased about is that the hotel has extended to ISASC a very attractive introductory rate, along with several other incentives, that will enable us to keep our registration costs in line with past years. We'll be telling you more in the months that lie ahead, but meanwhile, do mark the dates on your '97 calendar. And do plan to extend your stay, so that you can enjoy all the enticements for which Southern California is rightly famous. Lastly, and as a newsworthy footnote, Joe Lenorovitz, fresh from his triumphs as program director in New Orleans, has taken on the all-important post of convention chairman of the Los Angeles conclave, and will bring his considerable skills to bear on the paramount objective of providing good times for one and all.

## ABOUT MEMBER GOINGS AND COMINGS.

- \*\* Bill Doniger, a charter member and long-time director of ISASC, has agreed to serve as a N/A chapter vice president, and prior to our next election in late 1997, he's been appointed by the officers to fill a vacancy created by the in-the-works by-laws for the N/A chapter. More on that later.
- \*\* Judy Soslau, having recovered from the rigors of producing (with spouse Eric) our bibliography, has agreed to be chairperson of ISASC's newly-formed Endowment Committee. Judy, with considerable experience in endowment programming, is already recruiting committee members, and we're looking to her for direction on this important (and new to us) mode of organizational funding.



- \*\* Long-time member Eric Newman, a numismatist of international repute, will receive a singular honor in mid-August of this year when the American Numismatic Association, at its 105th Anniversary Convention in Denver, presents to him the award as "Numismatist of the Year." Eric is a recipient of nearly every ANA award, including the Association's Medal of Merit, Exemplary Service Award, Farran Zerbe Memorial Award, and 15 literary awards. He also is a 1986 inductee into the prestigious ANA Numismatic Hall of Fame. Congratulations, Eric!
- \*\* New member Steven Schwartz of Montevallo, Georgia, joins us with some very impressive credentials as a scale collector, restorer, repairer, and parts supplier. His specialty is precision balances (or, colloquially, double pan scales), and for those of you with one or more scales of this sort, we suggest you take a minute to look up Steve's listing in the enclosed directory supplement. You just may find good reason to do some business with him. (Among the makes familiar to Steve and many of our members is Sartorius, and you can imagine our initial pleasure in meeting one Kristy Sartorius of Wyndham Hotels, only to have her tell us that not only is she unrelated, but that she's never even heard of Sartorius scales. Oh, well.)
- \*\* Our condolences to member Ken Goodhue, whose wife, Pat, passed away this past February. Pat was an active participant in ISASC goings on, and she and Ken each year attended our annual convention.
- \*\* Members Betty Wright and Jerry Wilson have been appointed to the newly formed EQM Committee, charged with the responsibility of reviewing all aspects of our journal and recommending measures to make it even better. In addition to Betty and Jerry, the committee comprises members Sheila Holroyd and Garth Taylor of the Euro-Chapter. We'll keep you apprised of their progress.

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## FAIRBANKS TO THE FORE.

We told you about it in the last Newsletter, and now we can tell you that our latest catalog reprint is off press and available to one and all. To give you the salient facts again, it's titled A Retrospective of Fairbanks Scale Catalogs. It's a compilation of a general catalog and 17 different mini-catalogs, each devoted to a special type of scale. It comes to 306 pages, all under one cover. And it sells for a mere \$27.50. If you'd like to know more, see the description on the back page of the enclosed, updated library list, to which is attached a handy order form. It's the biggest and best thing we've ever done on Fairbanks, and no metrology library should be without it. And again, our thanks to Dale Goldman for making the whole lot available to us.

## OUR COMPUTER IS RED-FACED.

After naively assuming that computers can't make mistakes, we uncovered three errors in our 1996 membership directory, after (of course) it was off press and in the mail. We'll be less trusting of high-tech stuff in the future, but for the time being, we'd like to apologize to those affected and ask every member to enter the corrections, all on page 13, as follows:

Nahan Gluck:	Move "Alhambra from right to left-side, preceding "CA".
Dale Goldman:	Move "7853" from right to left side, preceding "Starling Drive."
Michael Goodman:	Delete "R.R.1" on first line of right side description.

And while on the subject of mistakes, we learned that a few copies of the last EQM (1996, #2) had several pages double-printed. Fortunately, the bulk of the press run was ok, but to be on the safe side, check pages 2007/2013 and 2016/2022, and if your copy is misprinted, let us know and we'll replace it.



BUSINESS MATTERS DO MATTER.

At the conclusion of our New Orleans convention, our chapter officers met all Sunday afternoon and early evening, recessed for dinner, and met again (in a hallway of our hotel, no less) later in the evening. The reason for all this was a 12-point business agenda, which we handily disposed of. The agenda appears below, and the minutes of the meeting are available to any member who is interested. For a copy, simply call or write me.

1. Convention Sites, 1997 and 1998.
2. Benefactor Program/Fiscal Review.
3. EQUILIBRIUM/Status of Editorial Board.
4. ISASC Chapter Infrastructure/Status.
5. ISASC Operating Manual.
6. Endowment Program/Status.
7. ISASC Officers/Terms of Office.
8. Dues Increase.
9. Officers' Reports.
10. Old Business.
11. New Business/Four Items.
12. Future of ISASC.

MONEY MATTERS, TOO.

At each year's convention, our Society raises funds from two sources, and this year was no exception. The first was from the sale of literature, and in New Orleans we raised \$810, thanks in large measure to the services of Margie Stein, who purveyed our works at a table bearing a sample of all we offer (see library list enclosed). The second was our commission on the silent auction sales, and this year, according to treasurer Jan Macho, we realized \$1,654.10. So, all in all, we fared quite well in these fiscal ways.

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MARKETPLACE.

FOR SALE. Four scale catalogs, each a high-quality copy, suitable for reproduction. (1) Fairbanks Scales For General Use. (Fairbanks, Morse & Co.) 77 pages. \$30. (2) Hanson Scales. Complete Catalog No. 10. 31 pages. \$12.50. (3) Pelouze Postal Scales, 1911. 19 pages. \$12.50. (4) Jones of Binghamton. 1885. 28 pages. \$15.00. Contact Bob Stein, 176 W. Adams, Suite 1706, Chicago, IL 60603; 312/263-7500.

PARTS WANTED. (1) Dial face and hands for 1938 C.R. Kirk Guess-er scale; photo or drawing of front glass lettering, coin return cup, hand adjustment knob. (2) Ornate brass parts for 1909 Twentieth Century scale, model unknown; one part for positioning under front cylinder, the other for back of scale (probably to frame glass). (3) Parts for Jennings Pace, Watling, Mills, Stimpson, Toledo scales. Contact Rick Showalter, 689 E. Buttonwood Drive, Brea, CA 92621; 714/255-8156.

IF YOU'RE ENGLAND BOUND THIS FALL...

and planning to attend the Euro-Chapter meeting, there's been a change in site and date. The meeting will be in Birmingham on Sunday, October 13, and promises to be an entertaining and eventful time. Cardiff, Wales, is now definite for the spring of '97, specifically on Sunday, April 13. If you want more details, write Ron Wilkinson, whose address appears on the inside cover of every EQM.

TO PARAPHRASE P.T. BARNUM...

"Just make sure our acronym is spelled correctly." Otherwise, ISASC (that's our acronym) continues to reap the benefits of considerable publicity, of which two recent and particularly outstanding examples are included. The first, from the April 15 issue of Antique Week, has to do with postal scales, and resulted from the writer's interview with member Jerry Katz, who provided background information and the scale photos. The second, from the May 10 issue of Antiques & Auction News,



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covered in great depth our then-upcoming convention, with editor Denise Sater securing from us photos of past conventions (courtesy of Nate Gluck), combining them with the news release we send to all antique publications, and giving the story featured treatment. As is quite evident, publicity like this spreads the good word about our society and brings us new members.

AND IN SUMMARY.

Much is happening with ISASC, but in a phrase--all is well and our future looks bright. You'll hear from us again in October.

Fraternally,

*Bob Stein*



**OFFBEAT  
CHICAGO**



ANDRE F. CHUNG/SUN-TIMES

Melvin Fountain, a city maintenance worker, weighs in.

## Scale at City Hall Sees Heavy Traffic

An uncomplaining public servant stands mutely near City Hall's LaSalle Street entrance.

Formally known as Toledo model 1821, it waits to pass judgment on political heavyweights and lightweights alike. A daily procession of visitors seeks counsel with this rebuilt 1950s-vintage 6-footer. Jack Cheney of Abacus Scale Co. donated the brawny machine, which can handle up to 500 pounds of freight, about five years ago.

"It's easier than the bathroom scale," says Tony Rossi, a jukebox repairman from Skokie, as the tally crests past 200 on the large, white face.

Yolanda Hannah of Chicago, a demolition company employee, hops on and squints at the numbers. "I don't care if people see," she chirps.

But in true City Hall tradition, there's always a way to excuse, er, explain something which doesn't quite add up.

"I think this overcoat weighs five pounds," said Thim Kirshnappa of Hoffman Estates. "So you must subtract."

—Ernest Tucker

